

**LOUDOUN COUNTY ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, November 17, 2010
Mickey Gordon Room 215
Depot Ct.
Leesburg, VA 20176

Committee Members Present:

Paul Popejoy, Sugarland Run, Chairman
Dr. Leslie Sinn DVM, Potomac, Vice Chairman
Donna S. Lewis, At-Large, Recording Secretary
Kathy Brice, Blue Ridge
Joanne Donohue, Catoclin
Dr. Michael Strickland DVM, Leesburg

Committee Members Absent:

Vacant, Broad Run
Monica Patty, Dulles
Paul Dodaro, Sterling

LCACC Staff Present:

Thomas Koenig, Director
Donna Levesque, Administrative Manager
Kim Miller, Animal Control Officer
Laura Rizer, Public Relations

Public Present:

Michelle Wendt, Ashburn VA

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Paul Popejoy, at 7:02 p.m.
The minutes from the June 23, 2010 meeting were presented. The minutes were approved as written.

Public Comment:

Michelle Wendt introduced herself and stated that she came to observe the meeting as she was interested in submitting her name to fill the open seat on the committee.

DIRECTOR UPDATE

Trust Funds. Updates were handed out for the Trust and License Plate Funds.

Training Summary Report. A report was handed out giving the expenses. Any funds remaining from the approved \$20,000 were returned to the Animal Program Trust Fund. Mr. Popejoy requested that any further reports on training also include a column showing the sponsor of the training.

National Cruelty Investigations School I – Kim Miller

A newer ACO went to learn about investigating cruelties. This was basic level course. The AOC brought back training books and brochures and meetings were held to share with the other AOC information learned. The training went over search and seizure in depth as well as evidence gathering. A scholarship was applied for and received which offset \$400 of this training. The training was run by Code Three Associates through the Missouri Law Enforcement Training Institute which is under a college. Dr. Sinn asked if this is training that would be ongoing for ACO's. This is a typical training course for a new ACO. Four of the newer ACO's have not had this level training. Two ACO's have had the Level II training. There are three levels for this course. To cut down on costs, Officer Miller tries to wait until the training is local.

Pat Miller Behavior Seminar – Laura Rizer

The Department sponsored this seminar and Pat Miller gave the presentation. It was attended by shelter staff and ACO staff, people from other shelters, volunteers from search and rescues organizations, and vet office staff. This seminar was a basic dog behavior seminar covering the basics of evaluating behavior properly (i.e. recognizing warning signs, basic misconceptions of behavior). Approximately 40 people attended.

NACA Academy 2 – Kim Miller

National Animal Control Association holds broad based training in animal control. One ACO went and the training covered investigations, search and seizures, civil liability, self defense, and blood sports (dog fighting). One part of the training which will be useful dealt with photography and documentation techniques.

Clicker Expo – Laura Rizer

Two staff attended. The staff member who is new to clicker training took foundation classes and enrichment behavior modification classes to understand the science behind clicker training and the mechanics of it to enable her to move into the Canine Companion Readiness Program (CCRP) area. Jenny Swiggert attended the track dealing with enrichment and behavior modification. The focus was on fearful and anxious dogs, building confidence in dogs, unique enrichment techniques, and courses on teaching self control and impulse control. The expenses were different because one staff member got a discount because she is a member of an affiliated organization and the room was shared so that the total cost of the room was placed under the cost for one staff member not split between the two.

Chameleon Conference – Donna Levesque

Donna Levesque and the dispatcher from Animal Control attended this five day conference. The expenses show different amounts due to the fact that the rental car and the hotel room was placed only under one staff members expenses. Chameleon is the software used at the Shelter. The conference included updates to the software, how to take better pictures, how to enhance the web site and information on web licensing which the shelter will begin in January. The Departments web site was used as an example of one that is using the new technology. Information on the GPS system was presented which will enable the ACO's in the field to be located at all times using their lop tops. It

can also be used for lost and founds.

HSUS Conference – Tom Koenig

There are 10 tracks within this conference which focus on different aspects. Amy Seymour went to the tracks that covered volunteerism and how volunteers are used to support their organizations. Dr. Newberry did a presentation on the new cleaning protocols (best practices for shelter animal care) from UC Davis. This protocol deals with the sanitation protocols and procedures which will reduce disease and keep animals as safe and healthy as possible while in the kennels. The Shelter is a lot closer to the protocols than some organizations especially on cat care and control of URI (upper respiratory infection). The two ACO's attending this conference and the one that attended the NACA conference said they had learned something but at the same time they felt that the Department is ahead of the curve and already using much of what is being taught at these national conferences. The most interesting course to Officer Miller was called Ending Urban Dog Fighting. It was on a program that is working with Pit Bull owners to give them training to change the focus of the use of their dog and they were having some success. Mr. Koenig's attendance was paid by HSUS because he was a speaker. He did a presentation on Pet Friendly Sheltering and found out that much of what we receive through grants or Homeland Security funds is not available in other parts of the country.

Veterinary Forensics – Kim Miller

This is the conference that moves the ACO's forward. This is an advanced training conference that focuses on gathering evidence from crimes against animals and forensics and how to move through a complex animal cruelty case properly. One piece of information was on Canine Coda, a DNA index system to track and link Pit Bulls involved in dog fighting. Another was on animal sexual assault and how to investigate those cases. There was a seminar on how to select a strong jury and this information was shared with the Commonwealth Attorney. One ACO is being trained to be strong in the forensics area of cases and she had a case where the only evidence on which to base the case, other than the individual who committed the crime, was the dog's body. Based on the forensic evidence, a conviction was received through a jury trial.

ACO's most beneficial conference was the forensics conference. Conferences on situations that may arise are helpful. One example is NACA training on Meth Labs for situations where the ACO's might be called to support DEA or FBI actions. ACO's might be the first on the scene and need to evaluate the situation and know what they are dealing with. The Shelter felt that they needed to evaluate the tracks for the conferences and how those tracks fit the needs of the Shelter. Dr. Strickland requested information on the contact to give a presentation to the Loudoun County vets.

HSUS Disaster First Aid – Laura Rizer

The Department hosted this seminar on behalf of HSUS and most all the Department's staff attended. This was about first aid when it comes to disaster response (animal basic first aid and CPR).

COG Awards

Six nominations went forward and Loudoun received three awards. Adrienne Burton was honored with a Leadership Award for her work with the Animal Control Division. Donna Levesque and her assistant Angela were presented the Administrative Customer Service Award for their work in revamping the County Dog License program. Loudoun Vets recognized Dr. Campbell from Blue Ridge Vets for her service to the animals in our area.

Holiday Schedule

Wednesday, Nov. 24 the Shelter will close at 6 p.m.

The last adoption day before Christmas will be December 19, Sunday. This will guarantee that you can receive your pet prior to Christmas. This also reduces the impulse adoptions. The County will be closed on Friday Christmas Eve but the Shelter will be a half-day because their observed holiday will be on Saturday. New Years Eve the Shelter will be open and closed New Years Day.

Animal Control – Officer Miller

There were no rabies exposures for the month of September. Dr. Strickland asked if the County enforced cat rabies laws and how it ties into the stray cat situations. Officer Miller said that because the State regulates cat rabies vaccination the County will follow State Code. Most checks are done through complaints or bite situations.

Statistics – Mr. Koenig

Mr. Koenig questioned how the committee wanted to handle reports when there is no monthly meeting. Does the committee want the reports for each month or should the monthly reports be condensed into one report covering several months? Discussion was held and the consensus was that it was preferable to leave the reports monthly. If a member has a question on a report but no meeting is held, that member should submit their question within a week to the Chairman and those questions will be sent to the Department to formulate answers and the same questions will be put on the Draft Agenda for the next meeting.

Animal Shelter – Laura Rizer

October shows 172 other surrendered by owner were a large tank of very small fish. The owner was evicted and surrendered them. A volunteer came and adopted the whole tank. Three puppies, all from the same litter and owner, were euthanized in October due to Parvovirus. There were four black kittens were euthanized for time and space because they had been at the shelter for four months with no interest. There was a special event “Black Cat Weekend” created to generate interest in these four kittens.

Three jurisdictions (Loudoun, Fairfax, and Arlington) within a one week period had all taken in parvo animals. This seems to be isolated incidents since there was not an outbreak. Dr. Strickland asked if there had been any Canine Influenza in the area because two kennels require vaccines for it but most vets are not recommending the vaccine. Mr. Koenig stated that over the summer Fairfax shut down for about five weeks with dog URI but it was not canine influenza. Dr. Strickland also inquired about the

microchips being used because for international travel a 10 digit number is required. The Shelter is still using chips with letters. If an animal does not have the proper chip, it will be required to have a second chip for international travel.

Questions on Shelter stats were raised by Mr. Popejoy (July and August puppy euthanized for behavior one each of those months) and Ms. Brice (kittens for May). The kittens were actually 8 months old and prior to this the stats for kittens were for 1 year and under. These kittens should have been under cats. Now the stats for puppies and kittens will both be 6 months and under. An e-mail of the July and August animals will be sent out via e-mail. Ms. Brice requested a fiscal end of year report. Mr. Koenig stated that that report was being compiled for the Public Safety Committee of the BOS and they are no longer meeting. A fiscal year snapshot will be compiled and sent out to the members.

Volunteer Activity– Laura Rizer

Ms. Seymour was contacted by UNC Charlotte to assist with their work on a program as part of a Doctorial Thesis. They requested assistance with a questionnaire to be sent to volunteers at animal shelters. They sent back a report and Mr. Popejoy also reorganized that report into a more understandable format since many of the questions were asked in a double negative format. There were no major red flags and the volunteer program is right on track. Some improvement could be made in the area of the volunteers making more of an impact and that the Department is responsive to the volunteer needs. Ms. Seymour is working on better communication and requesting more input from volunteers especially when making changes to the volunteer program. She is also evaluating making the experience have a more social atmosphere between volunteers and staff and increasing more training for the volunteers. The report showed good marks for the volunteer relationship to the staff, that the volunteers felt that their efforts and contributions were appreciated by the Department and that our volunteers, as compared to other responses, were the most active with time donated and volunteer opportunities. Ms. Seymour is also looking to expand the apprentice program (parent volunteers with child) because it has worked out very well not only for the children but for the animals to be more family friendly. Another challenge is trying to expand the opportunities for volunteers and enhancing or restructuring the foster care program.

Public Relations – Laura Rizer

There were two adoption promotions over the summer. The Cat Days of Summer saw 107 cats and kittens adopted from July 15 to September 5 which was a 57% increase over the same time frame the previous year. The Pick a Pair of Pocket Pets (small animals) saw 49 adoptions which was a 28% increase. The new Scout program started in September and allows the Scout to complete the requirements for their Pet Care Badge. There is a \$5.00 fee per Scout for this program. There are several food drives being organized. VIP Boarding Kennel collected food and then matched the donations. The total donation was 560 pounds of dog food and 204 pounds of cat food. AAA Self Storage in Sterling held a food drive and collected 150 pounds of food. The Care medical fund received a \$2,500 grant from the PETCO foundation. A relationship has been made with the Birthing Inn at INOVA Hospital to teach Baby Ready Pet classes to

show pet owners how to introduce a baby into the home without giving up their pet. The Dogs 101 is continuing at the Sterling Community Center. Some Pet First Aid classes are scheduled to be held at libraries as well as a Humane Reader program where a dog is taken to the library to sit in the readers lap as they read a book to children. Upcoming is the Holiday Pet Pantry in mid-December. A program with Imes is also in the works as well as a Vet Clinic for spay/neuter of some of the Shelter animals at a reduced rate and those animals will be ready to be adopted prior to Christmas.

Mr. Koenig stated that this Thursday will be the last day at PETCO for this year for the Mobile Adoption Vehicle due to the Thanksgiving holiday and the vehicle being used for the Pet Pantry in December. Another location is being looked into. This vehicle has given the Department great exposure, the opportunity to purchase dog licenses, and a lap top to view all other animals available. It is a positive introduction to the Shelter. It allows the Shelter to expose people who normally would not travel to the Shelter to the animals available and they will then travel to the Shelter to make an adoption. Regular maintenance is included in the Department's budget.

Organization and sorting for the Holiday Pet Pantry will be done by volunteers that are at the Shelter that day. Ms. Seymour will be sending out information and setting up the volunteer schedule. The Holiday Collision will be held December 11 to 18. There will be 800 to 1000 more families requesting assistance this year. Dr. Strickland requested a flyer be sent to the vet to post along with a cover letter.

Subcommittee Reports

Animals in Emergency: Dr. Strickland – At the last VMA meeting all vet said they would open their clinics if there was an emergency but they needed to know what that would mean. A survey was previously sent out to all vets. One of the aspects of the continuing operations plan is to provide emergency vet service on site. Dr. Strickland will get together with Shelter staff to establish wording to be sent to the vets.

Reducing Euthanasia Rates: Mr. Popejoy – will report next month

Community Outreach: Dr. Sinn, Ms. Lewis - none

Laws & Ordinances: Mr. Popejoy, Ms. Donohue - none

Unfinished Business

New Business

Officer nominations for next year.

A motion was made (Lewis) and seconded (Donohue) to put the current slate of officers up for reelection.

Motion carried 6-0-3

Meeting date and time

Discussion was held on changing the date or time. Consensus was to continue the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. There is no longer a guard downstairs. Staff will wait at the downstairs elevator until 7:15. After that committee members will need to call Mr. Koenig's cell to have access to the elevator. Mr. Koenig's cell number will be sent out with the agenda.

Committee Member Informational Reports

At Large – Donna Lewis

Blue Ridge – Kathy Brice

Broad Run – Vacant

Catoctin – Joanne Dekker Donohue

Dulles – Monica Patty

Leesburg – Dr. Mike Strickland, D.V.M.

Potomac – Dr. Leslie Sinn, D.V.M.

Sterling – Paul Dodaro

Sugarland Run – Paul Popejoy

Adjournment 8:55 p.m.

Next meeting, Wednesday, December 15, 2010